

various sections, all of which will appear in the Transactions. Dr. Theo Parvin, of Indiana, was chosen President, and Atlanta, Georgia, was designated as the place of next meeting, in May, 1879.

The annual meeting of the Canada Medical Association was held in Hamilton and was well attended. Dr. Workman, the venerable president, delivered the annual address, which was published in our columns. Some of the papers read were exceedingly interesting, and we regret very much that they have not yet been published. Both from a scientific and social point of view the meeting was a success. Dr. McDonald, of Hamilton, was elected President for the ensuing year, and the next annual meeting will be held in London on the first Wednesday in September, 1879.

In medicine and therapeutics much progress has been made. The question of blood-letting is still being revived from time to time. Wharton Jones, in the *London Lancet*, Nov. 2nd, gives his views regarding the subject. He thinks by the prevailing abstinence from venesection inflammation of important organs is often allowed to run a prolonged and disastrous course which might be prevented by the timely abstraction of blood in such quantities as could not be injurious to the patient.

The subject of transfusion has also been debated and experiments have been performed by Dr. Brown Sequard, of Paris, with different fluids. He tried normal blood, blood deprived of fibrin, and milk. In each case he found the result to be the same, but the quantity of milk used was greater than the other fluids. He considers it preferable to inject into the arteries rather than the veins, and to be done slowly. Dr. Thomas, of New York, has also tried the transfusion of milk, and is convinced that it acts as well as blood.

Atropine as a remedy for night sweats in phthisis has been brought into favorable notice. It has been tried in the Toronto Hospital with uniformly good results. The dose is about one-fortieth of a grain of the sulphate of atropine at bed-time. Chloral hydrate still continues to be used with great success in the treatment of delirium tremens, Dr. Farrar in the *Brit. Med. Journal* for January, 1878, speaks in the strongest terms of its beneficial effect after the failure of the opium treatment. The subcutaneous injection of ergotine is now almost universally considered a sovereign remedy for hemo-

ptysis, hematemesis, uterine hemorrhage, etc. Its *modus operandi* depends upon its action on the vaso-constrictors. Where there is much pain or irritable cough it is combined with morphine.

Dialyzed iron, which has been so favorably received by the profession, has lately been used by way of hypodermic injection. Prof. Da Costa, of Philadelphia, has tried it with marked success in several cases of anæmia and chlorosis. The iron was used in both the diluted and undiluted state, without any unpleasant effects. It was injected in from fifteen to thirty minim doses daily. The muriate of calcium has been highly extolled by Dr. Bell, (*London Lancet*) in the treatment of tuberculosis. He gives it the preference over all other remedies in the treatment of this affection. He has used it also successfully in scrofulous disease of the bones, tabes mesenterica, &c. The dose is 20 grains, more or less, after meals. Iodide of ethyl has been employed by Prof. Sée for the relief of the paroxysms of asthma. It is administered by inhalation, a few drops being placed on a handkerchief and applied to the nose.

Nitrite of amyl, so much vaunted of late as a remedy for sea-sickness, has been used to cut short the cold and hot stages of ague, and thus facilitate the treatment. Some experiments were performed in the Greenwich Hospital by Dr. Ralfe with such apparently satisfactory results as leads us to hope that with a more extended trial its efficacy may be established. The use of carbolic acid in small pox has been frequently alluded to in the different medical journals during the year. It has been given internally in small doses and also used as a lotion in the proportion of 1 in 20, applied to the face. It seems not only to act as a disinfectant, but also to prevent the pustules becoming confluent and to moderate the occurrence of pitting.

Nux vomica has been lately used with success in Italy in the treatment of diabetes. Two cases are reported as having been cured by it, in the *Gazzetta Medica di Roma*, under the care of Dr. Zarzana. The process of tapping for dropsy of the limbs, first introduced by Dr. Southey, has been put into practice with favourable results. It consists in the introduction of minute canulæ made of gold which gradually drain away the serum lying among the tissues. To the extremity of the canulæ are attached slips of rubber tubing about two feet in length to convey the fluid into a vessel for